30 Years

Thirtieth Anniversary

Jason's Friends Foundation

Call to Courage

Jason's Friends Foundation Semi-Annual Bulletin Published Fall 2026



Our Mission

The mission of Jason's Friends Foundation is to assist Wyoming families whose children suffer from childhood cancers, brain tumors or spinal cord tumors by providing critical financial assistance, advocacy and encouragement.



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF COMPASSION

This year continues to mark an extraordinary milestone as Jason's Friends Foundation celebrates **30 years** of serving Wyoming families.

For three decades, our mission has remained unchanged: to ensure that no Wyoming family faces the financial burden of a childhood cancer, brain tumor, or spinal cord tumor diagnosis alone. We are a statewide network of compassion, support, and hope.

We have provided more than $9.5 million in financial assistance to families across Wyoming, helping cover travel expenses, household bills, insurance deductibles, and more. While these numbers are remarkable, they only tell part of the story. Behind every dollar is a child receiving treatment and a parent able to focus on them instead of the financial burden.

Today, 180 families are enrolled in our program and eligible to receive critical support for their sick child. The need for our services remains strong. Thanks to the support of our donors, sponsors, and community partners, we continue to provide critical financial assistance to Wyoming families when they need it most. We remain committed to meeting the needs of every Wyoming family who turns to us for help, just as we have done since 1996.

As we start preparations for our annual fundraiser, we invite you to gather friends, family, and coworkers and join us at one of our three Bowl for Jason's Friends fundraising events around the state:

29th Annual - El Mark-O Lanes in Casper - March 6, 2027
5th Annual - Camelanes in Gillette - March 6, 2027
2nd Annual - Derby Lanes in Cheyenne - March 13, 2027

Every team formed, every sponsorship secured, and every dollar raised helps ensure that families can focus on what matters most: their child's care and well-being.

To everyone who has supported Jason's Friends over the past 30 years, thank you. You have made an immeasurable difference in the lives of Wyoming children and families.

As we celebrate this milestone year, we do so with gratitude for the past, pride in what we have accomplished together, and hope for the families we will continue to serve in the years ahead.

With gratitude,

Christine Robinson, Executive Director

In remembrance of Jason's Friends children who have gained their angel wings this year.

Brody, Laramie - age 14
Wyatt, Laramie - age 11



PLEASE JOIN US IN HONORING THESE HEROES WHO ARE FIGHTING HARD OR HAVE OVERCOME THEIR ILLNESS



October Birthdays

Cohen, 7 - Gillette
August, 14 - Gillette
Stevie, 19 - Douglas
Kyri, 16 - Mountain View
Sadie, 14 - Douglas
Brenna, 17 - Riverton
Taelyn, 5 - Green River
James, 19 - Rock Springs
Patrick, 17 - Cheyenne
Scarlett, 12 - Casper
Tennyson, 14 - Cheyenne
Opal, 8 - Casper
Jared, 20 - Lovell
Francheska, 19 - Lusk
Lane, 5 - Sheridan
Teagan, 18 - Cheyenne
Ashlinn, 14 - Casper
Lorraine, 5 - Daniel

November Birthdays

Jacob, 13 - Cheyenne
Aavah, 13 - Cowley
Airabella, 10 - Cheyenne
Francine, 11 - Laramie
Connor, 14 - Gillette
Hunter, 13 - Gillette
Odalys, 16 - Rock Springs
Austin, 16 - Laramie
Jack, 16 - Gillette
Paden, 20 - Lander
Marley, 18 - Casper
Emmitt, 17 - Lyman
Treston, 16 - Worland
Demetrius, 20 - Cheyenne
Emery, 11 - Cheyenne
Westin, 13 - Afton
Ryder, 15 - Afton
Bronc, 19 - Arvada
Connor, 8 - Rock Springs
Nelise, 5 - Green River

December Birthdays

Beau, 9 - Lander
Adlyn, 18 - Lander
Asher, 17 - Sheridan
Lane, 7 - Auburn
Tyler, 6 - Thayne
Emmie, 12 - Cheyenne
Illiana, 7 - Cheyenne
Nathan, 19 - Casper
Travaras, 19 - Cheyenne
Cate, 6 - Casper
Pazlee, 18 - Powell
Toki, 16 - Torrington

January Birthdays

Brazen, 9 - Gillette
Emerson, 18 - Cheyenne
Parker, 16 - Casper
James, 15 - Laramie
Henry, 15 - Hillsdale
Lukas, 13 - Burns
Brody, 8 - Worland
Ember, 8 - Cheyenne
Haukea, 11 - Casper
Owen, 6 - Greybull
Akiya, 19 - Cheyenne
Lyric, 6 - Gillette

February Birthdays

Matthew, 18 - Thayne
Evelyn, 12 - Casper
Karlie, 15 - Newcastle
Anthony, 17 - Casper
Ayden, 19 - Cheyenne
Bo, 19 - Pinedale
Dakota, 4 - Gillette
Emersyn, 14 - Buffalo
Zerrian, 20 - Thermopolis
Sage, 12 - Rock Springs
Sophia, 15 - Cheyenne
Ella, 18 - Jackson
Kaiziah, 2 - Ethete

March Birthdays

Paisley, 9 - Riverton
Garret, 16 - Riverton
Brooklyn, 12 - Casper
Callie, 16 - Evanston
Wyatt, 19 - Greybull
Oughen, 18 - Dubois
Claire, 4 - Thayne

YEAR-END TAX STRATEGIES

The clock may be ticking but there is still time for you to reduce your 2026 taxes and support Jason's Friends by making a charitable gift!

This year, make your giving go further and maximize your tax savings by making a gift of appreciated stock, securities or cash or by completing an IRA charitable rollover gift. Just make sure your gift is complete before December 31 so that it can count against your 2026 taxable income!

Read on to discover powerful ways to make an impact and achieve both your personal and philanthropic goals.

Give Cash - Even If You Don't Itemize

- Tax benefit for non-itemizers
- Cash gifts up to $1,000 for individuals or $2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

Starting this year, you can receive a federal tax deduction for charitable cash gifts even if you take the standard deduction. You can deduct up to $1,000 in qualifying cash charitable gifts ($2,000 for married couples filing jointly) on your federal tax return. That means your gift to Jason's Friends may provide a tax benefit while helping us support Wyoming families.

Noncash Gifts Offer Greater Advantages

- Charitable deduction for itemizers
- Bypass capital gains taxes
- Further Jason's Friends Foundation's mission

Gifts of stock and other publicly traded securities provide greater tax benefits than gifts of cash. When you donate appreciated stock instead of selling it first, you will avoid paying capital gains tax on the increase in value while also receiving a charitable deduction, if you itemize your deductions.

This gift is easy to complete and usually is accomplished through an electronic transfer from your brokerage or investment account. Give us a call to obtain our stock transfer account information and to let us know that you are transferring stock to our account.

Make a Tax-Savvy Gift from Your IRA

- Avoid tax on your IRA distribution
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD)
- Reduce taxable income

If you are 70½ or older and the owner of a traditional IRA, you can lower your income and taxes by making an IRA charitable rollover gift to Jason's Friends Foundation. You will avoid taxes on transfers of up to $111,000 from your IRA and satisfy all, or part, of your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.

The gift must come directly from your IRA to Jason's Friends Foundation in order to qualify. Making the transfer is easy! Simply contact the administrator of your IRA and direct them to make a qualified charitable distribution to Jason's Friends Foundation.

As we look toward 2027, we know that the generosity of those who invest in our cause makes all the difference in the lives of the families we serve. We are grateful for your support!









Camp Courage Wyoming

Camp Courage Wyoming was held August 7-10, 2026 at Crooked Creek Guest Ranch in Dubois, Wyoming. Twelve Wyoming families attended the 14th annual childhood cancer camp.

Camp Courage is a family camp that includes components for the children with cancer, their parents and their siblings. Activities include horseback trail rides, ATV rides, art projects, archery, a social hour for the parents and much more. Camp featured live music by Chad Lore and a special performance by magician Inspector Magic. It was a fun-filled weekend of recreation, laughter, and building lasting friendships.

Wyoming families who have a child under the age of 21 who has been diagnosed with cancer, brain or spinal cord tumors are encouraged to apply. Children who are in treatment, post-treatment or who are long-term survivors are welcome. The 15th Annual Camp Courage Wyoming will take place July 30 - August 2, 2027. Applications will be available in May 2027 through the Jason's Friends office or at jasonsfriends.org.

The camp is funded through grants and private donations which enable families to attend Camp Courage free of charge.

Thank you to all who donated their time, money and supplies to the 14th Annual Camp Courage Wyoming. It was a huge success and would not have been possible without your help!

"It brought the whole family out of our comfort zone. It was just what our family needed."

"We had a better time than we could have ever imagined, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you!"

"I have never been with such an amazing and supportive group of people. The camaraderie was awesome. It was great to see our kids having fun and just being kids!"

Donations can be made anytime to support Camp Courage Wyoming by visiting jasonsfriends.org/donate.

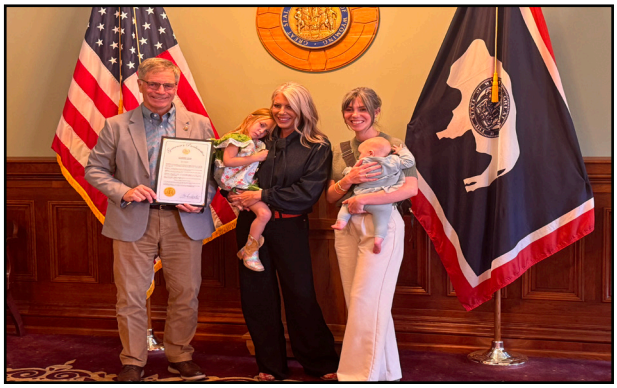






Go Gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness

Cities and towns across the state declared September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month



Governor Gordon issued a proclamation for the State of Wyoming. He read our proclamation at a special meeting on September 25. Alicia, Payton, Dorothy, and Ruby (JFF Family) attended and accepted the proclamation.

Mayor Jensen issued a proclamation for the Town of Afton on September 14. Christine (Executive Director) accepted the proclamation in her travels to the area.





Carrie (Family Support Coordinator), Lisa (Co-Founder), Andrea (Development Coordinator), Mayor Pacheco, Paili, Ollie, Annette, and Joshua (JFF Family) accepted the proclamation at the September 1 Casper City Council meeting.





Mayor Bridger read our proclamation at the Sheridan City Council meeting on September 8. Gabe, Sam, Emily, and William (JFF Family) attended and accepted the proclamation.

Mayor Rust read our proclamation at the Green River City Council meeting on September 1. Dakston, Hailey, and Taelyn (JFF Family) attended and accepted the proclamation.





Mayor Wetzel read our proclamation at the Powell City Council meeting on September 21. Pernille and Garrett (JFF Family) attended and accepted the proclamation.

Mayor Lundvall read our proclamation at the Gillette City Council meeting on September 1. Katey (JFF Family) attended and accepted the proclamation.





Mayor Mickelson read our proclamation at the Rock Springs City Council meeting on September 1. Hailey and Taelyn (JFF Family) accepted the proclamation.

Mayor Pexton read our proclamation at the Douglas City Council meeting on September 14. Bryan, Ashley and Caleb (JFF Family) attended and accepted the proclamation.





Mayor Cumbie read our proclamation at the Laramie City Council meeting on September 1. James and Sabrina (JFF Family) attended and accepted the proclamation.

Go Gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness

Thank you to our Jason's Friends families for sharing their child's cancer journey for September Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Meet Ailena from Cheyenne

Lena was diagnosed with B-Cell ALL in early April 2025, and she is currently in her third month of maintenance therapy. Her cancer journey has been intense, and through all of it Lena has focused on living right now with intention and looking ahead to what's after cancer.

Even with cancer becoming the primary concern, she worked hard to have a normal sophomore year. She got her driver's license, maintained a 4.0 GPA, and managed the basketball team. All of this with 84 days in the hospital, over 50 blood/platelet transfusions, and countless trips to Denver for treatment.



She has been working hard to rebuild her strength so she can get back to playing basketball with her team. She is an inspiration to everyone who has the pleasure of being in her presence, and she lights up every room she enters. She should complete treatment at the end of July 2027.

Submitted by Lena's parents

Meet Sapphire from Sheridan

Everything began when our once very healthy girl seemed to be getting constantly sick with cold symptoms. Originally, her physician wasn't convinced she needed an ENT consult. We watched her sleeping - snoring, coughing, losing weight, and struggling with an attitude we thought was caused by a lack of restful sleep - we opted to proceed. It was during our Christmas vacation that symptoms really became prominent. Sapphire had no appetite, she was pale, and she was exhibiting behaviors that just weren't normal.

On December 23, 2024, she had pre-op labs completed. Not even an hour later, we got calls to take her to the ER because she was very anemic and her white blood cell count was elevated. Between her labs and symptoms, we were given the preliminary diagnosis of Leukemia and flown to Denver Children's Hospital. There we learned that she not only had Leukemia, but she also had a pleural effusion in one of her lungs, fluid around her heart and a mediastinal mass in her chest. On Christmas Eve, she had a procedure for a heart drain and her first of several lumbar punctures with intrathecal chemo. We also learned her full diagnosis; T Cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. We stayed in Denver for a month before being able to transfer care to Billings Clinic. To say that we are glad to be in the maintenance phase and have all of the rigorous portion of treatment behind us is an understatement. I don't think Jason's Friends received a single uneventful update from us for an entire year.



Sapphire has been in maintenance now for almost a year, with May of next year marking the end of her treatment. She has a lovely afro of hair and, aside from one day each month, gets to simply be a normal kid.

Submitted by Sapphire's parents

Meet Cohen from Gillette

In March 2025, Cohen was diagnosed with Ganglioneuroblastoma at just 5 years old. His short life has already included a long medical journey, but looking back, every appointment, question, and push for answers helped lead us to finding his tumor early. After discovering that Cohen was born without major muscles in his palms, his specialist at Children's Hospital Colorado recommended genetic testing. Because of these findings, his doctors began looking more closely at other areas of his health. An abdominal scan showed several areas that were technically within the normal range but concerning enough to recheck in six months.



That follow-up came during spring break in March 2025, and we walked in expecting another routine appointment. Instead, imaging revealed a tumor with major arteries supplying his bowel running directly through it. Within a week and a half, Cohen was in surgery, and his surgeon was able to remove it. Pathology confirmed ganglioneuroblastoma. Thankfully, Cohen did not need chemotherapy or radiation. We are incredibly grateful for the way each piece of his journey led us to finding the tumor when we did. Cohen will continue to have scans every six months for three years and will eventually be followed in a high-risk paraganglioma clinic because of his genetic condition. Through every frightening moment and every answered prayer, God has been so apparent in each step of Cohen's journey.

Submitted by Cohen's parents

Meet Tao from Gillette

At just four years old, sweet and energetic Tao faced a mountain no child should have to climb. On October 16, 2024, what started as fevers and fatigue turned into a devastating diagnosis for his family: Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. The fight for Tao's life required a heartbreaking sacrifice. To receive the treatments he needed, Tao and his mom had to leave their home in Gillette and relocate to Denver for over a year. Their family was suddenly torn apart across state lines. The physical and emotional toll was immense. Chemo was devastatingly rough on Tao's tiny body, and the ache of missing home weighed heavily on the family. Yet, even on the darkest days, Tao's immense courage and resilience shone through. Guided by a compassionate team of doctors and nurses in Denver who fought fiercely alongside them, Tao kept going. Today, Tao has officially reached his maintenance phase and has started school!



Looking back on a year of unimaginable hardship, Tao's family knows they did not walk this path alone. Jason's Friends Foundation became an absolute lifeline. Jason's Friends stepped in to ease the heavy burden of travel expenses and provided a safe, comforting place for them to stay called Brent's Place. On the days when the treatments were at their absolute worst and the homesickness was unbearable, Jason's Friends was always there.

Submitted by Tao's parents

Did you know...

"I just want to say what a load it takes off of us when we realize a new family is from Wyoming. We know that we can refer them to Jason's Friends and so many of their needs will be met. We're thankful for this great partnership."

Social worker at Children's Hospital Colorado, Denver

WHAT WE DO

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE
We assist with fuel, meals, lodging and airfare so families can get to the care their child needs.

HOUSEHOLD BILL SUPPORT
We help with mortgage or rent, utilities, phone services, vehicle insurance and maintenance so families can keep their lives stable at home.

INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLES
We reimburse up to the full amount of a child's annual medical deductible to ease this significant financial burden.

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING
We fully support the child with cancer and immediate family members in accessing the mental health services they may need.

BEREAVEMENT / FINAL EXPENSES
We provide compassionate support and financial assistance for families who lose a child.

The JFF team was honored to travel to Denver in June to spend time with our partners and families. The trip was a heartfelt reminder of the strength of our relationships and all that we can accomplish together!











29th Annual Bowl for Jason's Friends
Saturday, March 6, 2027 at 9:00 a.m.
El Mark-O Lanes in Casper, WY

5th Annual Bowl for Jason's Friends
Saturday, March 6, 2027 at 11:00 a.m.
Camelanes in Gillette, WY

2nd Annual Bowl for Jason's Friends
Saturday, March 13, 2027 at 11:00 a.m.
Derby Lanes in Cheyenne, WY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Casper, Cheyenne and Gillette



Are you in the Cheyenne, Casper or Gillette area? Do you have extra time to give? If so, we would love to have you as a volunteer for our annual fundraiser, Bowl for Jason's Friends. Our planning committees meet weekly starting in January leading up to the event. Join a great group of people working together to make a difference for Wyoming families.

info@jasonsfriends.org OR 307-235-3421



Though we are enjoying fall, the holiday season is coming soon. We invite you to help our Jason's Friends families create special holiday memories for their loved ones without having to stress over the financial burden of food and other costs. Jason's Friends Foundation provides active families with $100 for their Thanksgiving meal. For Christmas, we give our active families $100 for each child in the family under the age of 18 living at home so parents can purchase Christmas presents. With your help, we can make the holiday season a little brighter and spread much needed love and joy to these families.

CAN YOU SPONSOR A FAMILY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

◊ $100 donation for a family's Thanksgiving meal
◊ $100 donation for a child's Christmas gifts

Click DONATE at jasonsfriends.org and comment "2026 Holiday Drive" or mail your donation to 1701 East E St, Suite 100, Casper, WY 82601

Thank You!



Acara, Genesee, Lilly and Sip N Pretty Lemonade hit the street in Laramie to raise money in honor of Brody and Jason's Friends Foundation. They are some cute entrepreneurs! Thank you girls!



HUGE thank you to DC2K Events for hosting a Poker Run for Jason's Friends in Laramie! What an amazing turnout and fun day! Thank you for driving up to Casper to deliver your donation! It was so nice to meet you all!

Thank you to Thunder Basin Coal Company and the Black Thunder/Coal Creek Mines for choosing Jason's Friends for their monthly Noble Cause donation. We appreciate you keeping yourselves safe and helping Jason's Friends families at the same time!

WYO GIVES



Jason's Friends participated in WyoGives 2026. Thank you to all who donated and made it another successful event. Thanks to our amazing donors, we raised over $50,000 on this special day of giving in Wyoming! A special thanks to Joe Scott, Hughes Charitable Foundation and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming.



Thank you to our friends at Orr's Hope Foundation for inviting us to the 2026 Concert for Hope. We appreciate your partnership and love spending this time together each year!



Jason's Friends was chosen as one of the recipients of the 1st Annual Casper Crazy Days Car Show! Thank you, Brett Hobza, for thinking of us and the 180 Wyoming families currently in our program! We are so grateful!

Thank you so much to the Student Council of Johnson County School District for their amazing donation! We love seeing the leaders of tomorrow doing great things!



We are grateful to Jace Murphy and his employer, Stabil Drill, for choosing Jason's Friends as the beneficiary of their indoor golf tournament, Cabin Fever Classic, in Casper this past March.

IN LOVING Memory

Thank you for donations made in memory of the following:

Mark Groh
Brody Bowlds
Wyatt Haas
Jack Lore

We appreciate our recurring monthly donors
Thank you for choosing Jason's Friends.

Thirtieth Anniversary
30 Years
Jason's Friends Foundation
1701 East E St Suite 100
Casper, WY 82601

Thank You! For 30 years, your generosity has ensured that no Wyoming family faces childhood cancer alone.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THIS MISSION.

Jason's Friends Foundation Board of Directors

Lisa Eades - President
Rocky Eades - Vice President
Tisa Bilek - Secretary
Karl Killmer - Treasurer
Risa Petrie - Director
Karel Loraas - Director
Brooke Eades Thorson - Director
Phil Schmidt - Director
Dan Holman - Director

Like Jason's Friends Foundation on Facebook and Instagram!

Jason's Friends Staff

Christine Robinson, Executive Director

Carrie Hebert, Family Support Coordinator

Andrea D'Onofrio, Development Coordinator

Alyssa Duke, Foundation Assistant

Become a monthly donor and make a difference in a family's life!

Did you know donating even $50 a month can provide a family gas to travel to a doctor's appointment or a cafeteria card for meals?

The vital help Jason's Friends Foundation provides to our families is made possible solely through the generous donations of individuals, businesses and foundations who support our work.

Please consider setting up a recurring gift at:

jasonsfriends.org/donate

DONATE